

## **District School Improvement and Accountability Council**

### **Minutes from August 27, 2013**

Kristen Tourangeau, Co-Chairperson, and Roger Kilgore, Co-Chairperson  
Jesse Sutherland, Vice Chairperson, and Dorolyn Griebenaw, Secretary

**Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes:** Kristen Tourangeau called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. She welcomed Anne Rowe, member of the DPS Board of Education. District SIAC members introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Minutes:** The minutes from June 25, 2013, were read. Earleen Brown moved for approval, and Jesse Sutherland seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Anne Rowe, Member of the DPS Board of Education:** Anne Rowe shared that the Board of Education is looking at reviewing the Denver Plan. She and Jeannie Kaplan started looking for facilitators to help with the Denver Plan. After presenting information to the BOE, the Board of Education chose the Panasonic Foundation. Every other month the BOE will meet with the Panasonic Foundation to facilitate work on the Denver Plan. The Foundation will be working with DPS for 18 months. They are looking at two big questions: What is a great education? What should DPS graduates know and be able to do? The Board of Education Retreat was held on August 16 with six Board of Education members attending, the DPS Chief of Staff, and the Superintendent. Anne Rowe said the two questions will be discussed at the Board of Education meeting on September 12. She added that she will forward information from the Panasonic Foundation to District SIAC. Kristen Tourangeau stressed that District SIAC would like to work with the Board of Education, have interaction with the Board, and do more than present reports. Anne Rowe said she feels that District SIAC can play an integral part going forward. There was discussion about the difficulty in trying to access the Board of Education agenda in order to provide timely input. Anne Rowe shared that there is an effort to have the agendas for the BOE meetings posted on the web site the Friday before each meeting and that the topics for the Board meetings over the next three months have been posted. Kristen Tourangeau thanked Anne Rowe for sharing her time with District SIAC.

**Meeting Dates for District SIAC:** There was consensus that the meeting dates should continue to be the last Tuesday of each month. The dates are posted at the bottom of each month's agenda. It was noted that the September District SIAC meeting is also the date of one of the school board candidate forums. Following discussion, the consensus decision was to keep the District SIAC meeting on Tuesday, September 24.

**Board of Education Election Forums:** District SIAC discussed sponsoring a forum for the BOE candidates. The League of Women Voters forums are scheduled for September 17, September 24, October 1, and October 12. Kristen Tourangeau said she will send the forum dates to everyone as well as information about the event at North High School on Wednesday, September 25, with Diane Ravitch and her new book, Reign of Error.

#### **Committee Reports:**

- Charter School Renewals - - Kristen Tourangeau reported that there are ten schools to be renewed and the deadline is mid November. The following members have signed up for the committee: Earleen Brown, Sherry Eastlund, Val Flores, Rita Montero, Jesse Sutherland, and Kristen Tourangeau.

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**Committee Reports Continued:**

- Budget and Finance - - Lynn Otto said that everyone should have a copy of the proposed schedule. The committee has held three meetings. The first was on July 12 with Anne Rowe and Jeannie Kaplan. The second meeting was July 25 and included some DPS staff. The third meeting was last week on August 22, and the next meeting will be September 12.
- Unified Improvement Plan - - Kristen Tourangeau has asked for information on the schedule for the development of this year's District Unified Improvement Plan.
- Membership Recruiting - - Roger Armstrong shared that he has put his recruiting effort on hold until after the Board of Education election in November.

**Miscellaneous - - Announcements and Comments:**

- Modified Consent Decree - - District SIAC members would like to know when the District will start implementing the new decree.
- Modified Consent Decree Expenses - - Landri Taylor, at the June DSIAC meeting, said he would try to get information to District SIAC on the expenses and legal fees associated with the Modified Consent Decree.
- District SIAC Charter Application Report of June 2013 - - District SIAC expressed concerns about charters in the District SIAC Charter Application Report of June 2013, and members asked if there has been a BOE response to the concerns.
- Do Not Hire - - Landri Taylor, at the District SIAC June 2013 meeting, reported that the Board of Education voted unanimously to urge District staff to return to the BOE within 30 days with changes in the policy so that the do not hire practice will not be permanent. Council member asked if the new policy had been put into place.
- Chicago Schools - - It was noted that Chicago closed 50 schools based on low performance and eliminated 2,000 employees.
- Deputy Instructional Superintendents - - Council members asked if DPS has put new deputy instructional superintendent positions in place.

**Next Meeting:** The September District SIAC meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, in room 108 of the DPS Administration Building.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.